



CCM 2014 Testimony

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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

House Bill 5451 "An Act Concerning Health Care Pooling"

HB 5451 would, among other things, mandate that towns and cities submit specific details (organized by municipal departments, unions, and average tier) of their local health plans for municipal employees, early retirees and retirees to the State Comptroller.

CCM opposes HB 5451 as new unfunded state mandate that would impose a negative impact on local administrative and financial resources. Although the objective to share information has merit, CCM has concerns with the overall practicality of HB 5451.

CCM raised concerns with a similar proposal in the Insurance & Real Estate Committee (SB 198) that would, among other things, expand the existing state mandate that requires certain claims information be provided to union officials (via municipalities) by including "written plan descriptions for all populations" – and would also mandate that towns and cities provide such claims data to an "employee organization not later than thirty days after a request by such employee organization."

Simply put, hometown officials need mandates relief with regard to the costs of health insurance – like the proposal in Section 4 of SB 28 that would elimination the burdensome premium tax – and not new state mandates, as proposed in this bill which would exacerbate local administrative and financial troubles.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on HB 5451.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager for CCM, at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org.